

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-20 (canceled)

Claims 21-24 (withdrawn)

Claim 25 (currently amended):

A saw comprising:

a support structure defining a work zone;

a rotatable blade adapted to cut a workpiece in the work zone, where
the blade has an angular momentum when rotating;

a motor to drive the blade;

a detection system configured to detect a dangerous condition
between a person and the blade; and

a reaction brake system configured to engage the blade upon
detection of the dangerous condition between the person and the blade, and
configured to use so that at least part of the angular momentum of the blade
to generate a force tending to urge the blade away from the work zone
when the brake system engages the blade.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The saw of claim 25, where the reaction brake
system is further configured to stop the rotation of the blade.

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Claim 27 (currently amended):

A woodworking machine comprising:

a support structure defining a work zone in which a workpiece may be cut;

a blade adapted to cut the workpiece in the work zone;

a motor to drive the blade;

a detection system adapted to detect contact between a person and the blade; and

a reaction brake system adapted to urge the blade away from the work zone upon the detection of the contact.

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Claim 28 (withdrawn)

Claim 29 (currently amended): The woodworking machine of claim 27, where the woodworking machine is a miter saw, where the support structure includes a base and a support arm moveable relative to the base, where the blade is mounted on the support arm, and where the reaction brake system is adapted to urge the blade upward relative to the base.

Claim 30 (currently amended): The woodworking machine of claim 27, where the reaction brake system is further adapted to engage and stop the blade.

Claim 31 (currently amended):

A woodworking machine comprising:
a support structure defining a work zone in which a workpiece may
be cut;
a blade adapted to move into the work zone to cut the workpiece;
a motor to drive the blade;
a detection system adapted to detect contact between a person and
the blade; and
~~a reaction brake system adapted to limit movement of the blade into~~
~~the work zone upon the detection of the contact.~~

Claim 32 (currently amended): The woodworking machine of claim 31, where the
woodworking machine is a miter saw, where the support structure includes a base and a
support arm moveable relative to the base, where the blade is mounted on the support
arm, where the blade is configured to rotate, where the blade has an angular momentum
when rotating, where the ~~reaction~~ brake system includes a ~~brake~~ pawl to engage the
blade, and where ~~the~~ brake is adapted to engage the blade and use at least part of the
angular momentum of the blade to limits the movement of the blade into the work zone
upon the detection of the dangerous condition when the pawl engages the blade.

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Claim 33 (currently amended): The miter saw of claim 32, further comprising a pivot joint between the support arm and base and adapted to allow the support arm to pivot relative to the base, where the blade has a rotational axis, where the blade has a front portion defined as that portion beyond the rotational axis away from the pivot joint, and where the brake pawl is adapted to engage the blade at a position on the front portion of the blade.

Claim 34 (currently amended): The woodworking machine of claim 31, where the reaction brake system is further adapted to engage and stop the blade.